

## GIDEON'S EPHOD

Judges 7-8

**Judges 7:23** The fearful in heart became bold--when worst was over.

Mt Hen: *Cowards seem valiant when the danger is over.*

**Judges 7:24** Secured the passes over Jordan.

*Waters*: shallow places (fords) over which the armies could cross.

*Took the waters*: posted themselves along side of river

**Judges 7:25**

*Oreb and Zeeb*: 2 chief commanders of host

*Oreb*-raven

*Zeeb*-wolf

**Judges 8:1** Instead of offering --pick a fight.

Ephraim jealous of Manasseh.

Felt slighted.

Mt Hen: *Those seek themselves more than God that stand up on a point of honor to excuse themselves from doing real service to God and their generation.*

**Judges 8:2** Gideon's response: What have I in comparison to you?

*Abiezer*: experienced cutting down of groves and destruction of altar to Baal.

Later joined Gideon

*Gleaning*: Your coming in and cutting off escapees as they escaped was better service to country than first attack made by harvesters of Abiezer

He praised them!

**Judges 8:3** *Abated*: became less. He defused them.

**Judges 8:4-5** *Succoth*: East side of Jordan

Two kings of Midian with 15,000 men made it over Jordan before Ephraimites cut them off.

Gideon needed to complete task.

300 men have picked up swords and spears.

*Faint*: languid. Without vigor or vitality. No energy

**Judges 8:6** Catch them first and we will give you bread

Opposition from brethren.

**Judges 8:7** I will tear your flesh with briers and thorns

**Judges 8:8** Penuel gave same answer

**Judges 8:9** *Tower*: fortification, walls, lookout tower.

**Judges 8:10-12** *Discomfited*: caused great fear, captured, routed.

**Judges 8:13-14** captured young man from Succoth--forced him to write down names of 77 rulers and elders.

**Judges 8:15** Here are Zebah and Zalmunna. .

**Judges 8:16** *Taught*: instructed, helped them discover a truth.

**Judges 8:17** Killed leaders and beat down towers-- didn't hurt people.

**Judges 8:18** *Tabor*: where Gideon's brethren murdered

Men of dignity, born for something great.

**Judges 8:19** I wouldn't kill you if you hadn't killed them.

Avenger of blood

**Judges 8:20-21** Don't ask boy to do man's job.

Ornaments: decorate necks of camels with gold chains and jewels. Badges of royalty. Symbols of idolatry.

**Judges 8:22-23** Gideon's modesty...humility.

**Judges 8:24-27** Give me the earrings of your fallen enemies.

*Ephod*: outer vestment worn by Jewish Priests. Exodus 39:2-7

Breastplate...attached by chains of pure gold.

Gower: *It carried a jewel encrusted pouch containing the Urim and Thummin which was used to discern the will of God.*

ISBE: *ephods were worn by persons other than the High Priest.*

Very expensive

**Judges 8:27** Put it in his city...Ophrah.

Israel commanded to worship God in Shiloh.

Alexander Whyte: *Gideon made a mock ephod at Ophrah, while all the time God had made a true and sure ephod for Himself and for Gideon and for all Israel at Shiloh....Gideon set up a sham house of God of his own, and a sham service of God of his own, with the result to himself and to Israel that the sacred writer puts in such plain words.*

Man do right all ministry and "blow it" at end. Revelation 12:12

**Judges 8:27** ... *and all Israel went thither a whoring after it:*

They turned their backs on God's ways...altar and priesthood.

*The were fond of change and prone to idolatry...many are led into false ways by one false step of a good man.*

*which thing became a snare unto Gideon, and to his house.* Noose, trap, hook.

Affected the families.

Gideon added superstition to faith

**Judges 8:28-35**

**Life of Gideon — So What?**

1. Humble
2. Ephraimites
3. God's servants
4. Don't oppose God's works.
5. Never right to disobey God.
6. Results of sin.